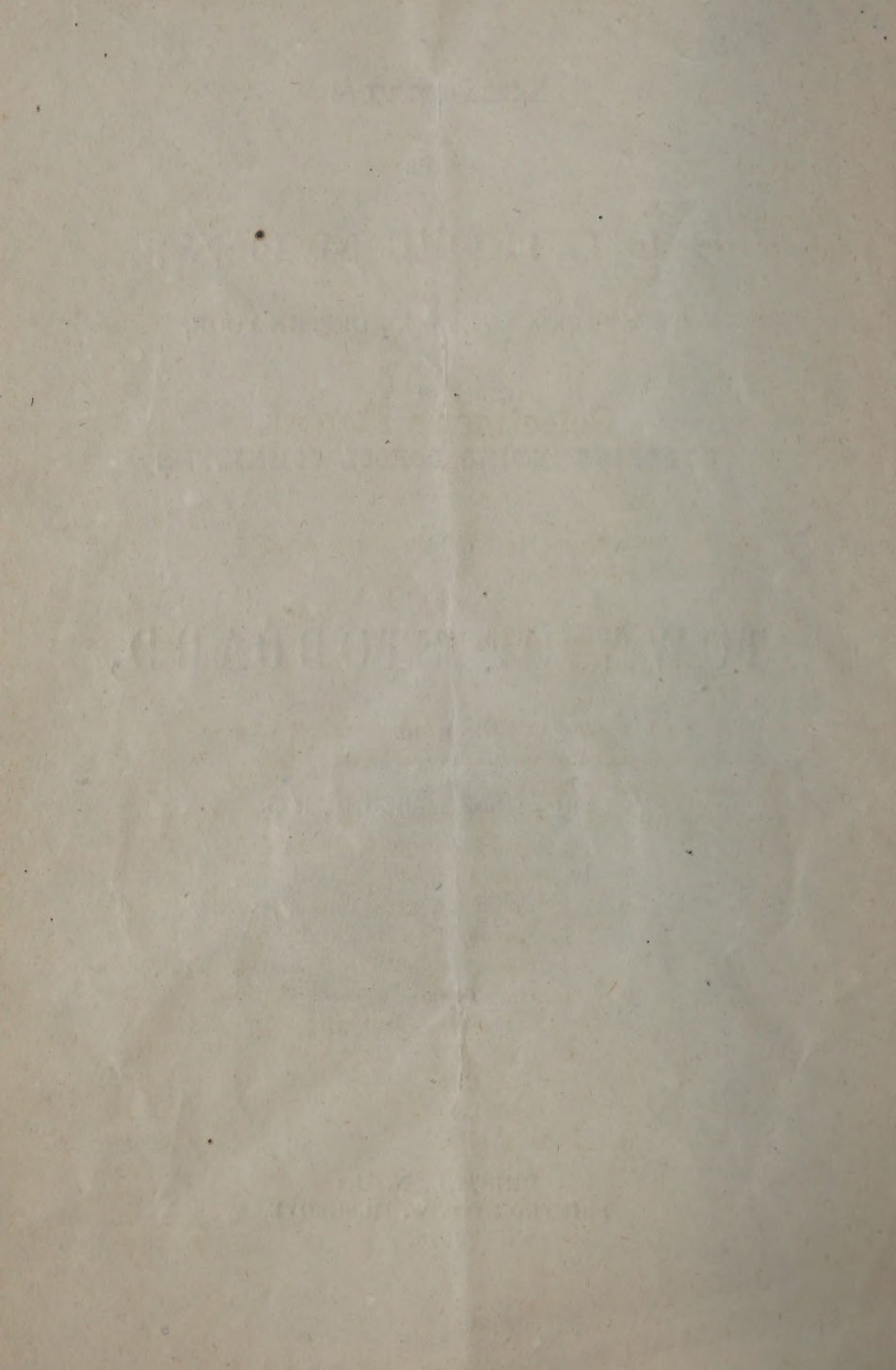


REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN,
TREASURER, OVERSEER OF THE POOR,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF STODDARD,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1878.

BRISTOL, N. H.:
PRINTED BY R. W. MUSGROVE.
1878.



Selectmen's Report.

The Selectmen Credit the Town for the Year Ending March 1, 1878, as Follows:—

By list of taxes assessed in 1877,	\$3,878.85
Savings Bank tax,	490.47
Literary fund,	54.61
Amount received of County for support of paupers,	389.00
Amount collected on taxes of 1875 and 1876,	785.97
Interest on 1876 taxes,	22.58
Cash received of E. S. Messenger, taxes 1875-76,	49.79
" " Israel F. Towne, Collector 1873-74,	293.50
" " James H. Scott, " 1870,	4.42
" " Solon Esty, grass in cemetery,	2.00
" " for use of Town Hall,	2.00
" " books furnished by S. S. Com.,	2.30
" " of I. F. Towne, rent on Tyler lot,	1.25
" " E. Stevens, on town note,	108.06
" " S. Knight, " "	300.00
" " J. M. Rice, " "	200.00
" " F. T. Lewis, " "	210.00
" " H. Proctor, " "	150.00
" " M. A. Proctor, " "	30.00
" " Geo. S. Russell, " "	500.00
	<hr/>
	\$7,474.80

DISBURSEMENTS.

Orders on Town Treasurer. Principle & Interest on Town Notes.

Paid Robert Kenedy,	\$2,100.00
Chastina Shedd,	55.00
B. F. Messer, note,	2,419.75
Dudley H. Lewis,	123.60
	<hr/>
	\$4,698.35

Support of Schools.

Paid Chas. P. Pitcher,	District No. 1,	\$130.29
H. N. Emerson,	2,	64.12
S. Knight,	3,	60.30
Henry Wilson, (Nelson)	2,	57.87
C. G. McClure,	5,	99.16
O. H. Harding,	5,	2.15
W. W. Robb,	6,	69.00
A. E. Barrows,	6,	126.70
Geo. W. Gay,	8,	47.55
Geo. E. Reed,	9,	25.00
		<hr/>
		\$682.14

Support of Paupers.

Paid J. M. Rice, including services as Overseer,	\$616.27
Paid State tax,	\$576.00
County tax,	463.47
	<hr/>
	\$1,039.47

Repairing Highways and Bridges, 1877.

Paid Lester C. Guillow,	\$24.08
Henry Wilson,	3.41
William H. Chapin,	1.25
W. P. Hopkins,	6.27
P. P. Hodgman,	42.49
C. P. Jefts,	2.21
Christy O'Neil,	3.72
E. Minard,	.96
Nathan Stacy,	3.00
O. H. Harding,	8.91
Gilman Stacy,	24.18
J. F. Whittemore,	8.34

Paid Remus Lowell,	\$2.57
I. P. Wellman,	5.28
J. F. Thomas,	11.19
Grovenor McClure,	2.04
J. H. Scott,	4.58
James Robb,	5.00
Asa Davis,	4.50
E. Stevens,	3.88
A. H. Waldron,	3.08
A. Hubbard,	3.42
Daniel Whittier,	2.10
B. A. Bicknell,	6.36
James Simonds, powder and fuse,	.76
Peter T. Fox,	3.42
Nicholas Carr,	4.28
E. W. Mowry, 1876,	1.50
G. F. Guillow, 1876,	3.66
Horatio McIntire, 1876,	3.29
	<hr/>
	\$199.73

Breaking Roads in Winter of 1876 and Spring of 1877.

Paid Chas. Avery,	\$8.67
Daniel Upton,	29.04
P. P. Hodgman,	6.86
Henry Shoults,	23.82
A. H. Corey,	5.10
G. S. Robb,	6.06
G. W. Hunt,	1.74
J. F. Whittemore,	8.64
D. D. Sargent,	5.34
C. P. Pitcher,	1.26
Thomas Tyrrell,	2.64
A. Marshall,	3.50
James H. Stevens,	1.98
	<hr/>
	\$104.65

Breaking Roads in Winter of 1877-78.

Paid Asa Davis,	\$35.88
Calvin Barrett,	5.40
J. D. Hale,	6.12
Daniel Stacy,	6.96
F. H. Knight,	18.69
Hosea Procter,	43.84
E. Stacy,	9.96

Paid G. Stacy,	\$10.86
James Robb,	6.25
Henry Shoults,	5.12
James H. Scott,	7.38
James E. Reed,	1.92
F. A. Whittemore,	17.34
J. M. Rice,	18.86
H. N. Emerson,	16.20
Geo. R. Jefts,	9.48
P. P. Hodgman,	12.87
	<hr/>
	\$233.13

Miscellaneous Expenditures.

Paid Faulkner & Batchelder, Counsel fees,	\$54.18
W. H. Spalter & Co., stationery,	3.28
Jonas Porter, damages to horse and carriage,	157.50
H. Procter, bell rope and wood,	9.45
S. Knight, for school books furnished,	25.00
O. H. Harding, entertainment for mail carriers,	5.00
John Scott, work on cemetery,	2.46
Ira Bartlett, damage on highway,	5.00
Hosea Proctor, over tax in 1877,	8.92
Joel F. Whittemore, stationery,	2.38
Bounty on foxes and hawks,	10.70
	<hr/>
	\$283.87

Services of Town Officers.

Paid Sumner Knight, S. S. Committee,	\$36.48
Silas Dinsmore, Town Clerk,	28.21
Jonas Taylor, tax collector, 1877,	93.92
J. F. Whittemore, collecting taxes, 1875-6,	15.00
J. F. Whittemore, } Selectmen,	68.50
J. M. Rice, }	49.10
J. H. Scott, }	46.75
E. Stevens, Treasurer and expenses,	33.00
	<hr/>
	\$370.96

Abatement of Taxes.

On tax list of 1877,	\$29.49
" " 1870,	7.36
" " 1875-6,	4.38
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	\$41.23

Due on tax list of 1877, \$81.36

Recapitulation.

Selectmen,	Dr.
To funds received from all sources,	\$7,474.80
	Cr.
By am't paid on notes,	\$4,698.35
support of schools,	682.14
support of paupers, including services of Overseer,	616.27
State and County taxes,	1,039.47
repairing highways and bridges,	199.73
breaking roads,	337.78
miscellaneous expenditures,	283.87
Town officers,	370.96
abated on tax list 1877,	29.49
due from Jonas Taylor, taxes 1877,	81.36
	<hr/>
	\$8,339.42

Amount due on Town Notes.

E. Stevens,	note dated March 1, 1876,	\$5,512.50
Chastina Shedd,	" " " 10, "	1,153.47
Dudley H. Lewis,	" " Jan. 24, 1876,	1,005.66
S. Knight,	" " Dec. 27, 1873,	256.04
E. Stevens,	" " March 1, 1877,	315.00
Geo. S. Russell,	" " June 28, 1877,	516.80
S. Knight,	" " July 2, 1877,	310.94
Frank T. Lewis,	" " " "	216.94
Mary A. Proctor,	" " " "	30.99
Hosea Proctor,	" " " "	154.98
J. M. Rice,	" " " "	206.61
		<hr/>
		\$9,679.93

Due E. Stevens, Treasurer, cash overdrawn,	\$864.62
The several school districts, for schooling,	43.47
" " " repairs,	9.34
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	\$917.43

Total amount due on town notes,	\$9,679.93
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Total liabilities of the town, March 1, 1878,	\$10,597.36
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Assets.

Due from E. S. Messinger and bondsmen, taxes '75-6,	\$1,218.46
“ “ “ int. on above,	44.06
“ Israel F. Towne, Collector for 1873-4,	102.84
“ F. A. Mellen, “ “ 1868-9,	93.67
“ County, for support of County paupers,	252.19
“ Jonas Taylor, Collector for 1877,	81.36
“ Collectors' books for 1875-6, in hands of Selectmen,	700.50
“ Reform Club for use Town Hall,	2.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,495.08

Total amount of liabilities,	\$10,597.36
“ “ assets,	2,495.08
	<hr/>
“ “ indebtedness,	\$8,102.28

Net indebtedness March 1, 1877,	\$8,969.85
“ “ “ 1, 1878,	8,102.28
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Reduction of debt the past year, \$867.57

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL F. WHITTEMORE,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
JOSIAH M. RICE,	
JAMES H. SCOTT,	
	} <i>of</i>
	} <i>Stoddard.</i>

Treasurer's Report.

Pursuant to the requirements of the law, I respectfully submit the following report of the financial transactions of the town of Stoddard, for the year ending March 1st, 1878.

Receipts.

Received of J. Taylor, taxes for 1877,	\$3,768.00
“ J. F. Whittemore, taxes for 1875-6,	674.34
“ James H. Scott, “ 1875-6,	171.00
“ “ “ “ 1870,	4.42
“ J. M. Rice, “ 1875-6,	13.00
“ I. F. Towne, “ 1873-4,	293.50
“ I. F. Towne, rent on Tyler lot,	1.25
“ J. M. Rice for support of County paupers,	389.00
“ On town notes,	1,498.06
“ J. F. Whittemore for grass in cemetery,	2.00
“ “ “ for use of Town Hall,	2.00
“ “ “ cash for books,	2 30
“ Solon A. Carter, Savings Bank tax,	490.47
“ “ “ Literary fund,	54.61
	<hr/> \$7,363.95

Disbursements. By order of Selectmen.

Paid Principal and interest on town notes,	\$4,698.35
Support of schools,	682.14
Support of poor,	616.27
Repairing highways and bridges in 1877,	199.73
Breaking roads, winter of 1876 and spring of '77,	104.65
Breaking roads, winter of 1878,	233.13
Services of town officers,	370.96
Ordinary town charges and miscellaneous items,	283.87
W. H. Mason, County tax,	463.47
S. A. Carter, State tax,	576.00
	<hr/> \$8,228.57

Total amount of disbursements for the year ending March 1st, 1878,	\$8,228.57
Total amount of receipts for 1878,	7,363.95

Amount overdrawn, and due the Treasurer,	\$864.62
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EPHRAIM STEVENS, *Treasurer.*

Report of Overseer of the Poor.

Statement of the expenses of the support of the poor for the year ending March 1st, 1878:—

Paid for Peggy Dame,	County charge,	\$20.37
Charles Baldwin,	“ “	2.00
Emeline Wood,	“ “	52.40
Eugene DeRochu,	“ “	18.32
Ann E. Hart, 3 children,	“ “	94.25
Lucinda Wilds,	“ “	52.18
Edwin W. Davis,	“ “	8.00
Frank L. Thurston,	“ “	52.28
Amanda Wells, 1 child,	“ “	13.95
Mary A. Hart,	“ “	27.00
Charles Gurtsnor,	“ “	4.00
Clara E. Gould,	“ “	2.90
Betsey Temple,	“ “	23.49
Abbie J. Smith,	“ “	21.00
Mrs. George Gould and child,	“ “	5.75
Granville E. Wells,	“ “	3.50
Erasmus D. Loveland,	“ “	10.12
Norman A. Howe, County charge since Sep. 7, '77,		72.36
Henrietta Woods and 2 children,		11.76
Paid O. H. Harding, entertainment for tramps,		10.75
R. J. Brown, “ “ “		31.00
S. J. Harrington, “ “ “		26.50
Bills contracted in 1876, paid in 1877,		5.18
Postage,		.46
Faulkner & Batchelder, counsel in pauper case,		7.00
Silas Dinsmore, taking affidavits for tramps,		10.00
Overseer's services and use of money furnished,		29.75
Whole amount paid out,		<hr/> \$616.27

Received of County, for support of paupers,	\$247.16	
Due from County,	252.19	
Expense to County,	<hr/>	499.35
Expense to town,		<hr/> \$116.92

JOSIAH M. RICE, *Overseer of Poor.*

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF STODDARD,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

The subject of the education of the young is, and has been receiving increased attention for some considerable time, and the results are apparent and marked in the generally increased prosperity of schools. Of those within our own limits, for which we have to make annual provision, it is believed it may be truthfully said that, when considered as a whole, their improvement is commendable to the town. Interests and influences as wide spread as those pertaining to the training and fitting of youth for the discharge of the duties of life, are not excluded from localities; and doubtless in some degree our schools are being benefited by the much that almost everywhere is being done in behalf of education. Teachers, if not too dull and stupid to be effected by influences, readily take up improved methods of discipline and instruction. Prudential Committees, when they take the oath of office, appear to feel in an increased degree that their position means something more than not to be forgetful of their own particular interests in dispensing favors, or to look out to place friends or relations in charge of the schools; but that the law and duty demand of them the faithful and impartial discharge of the trusts committed to their charge, and that their services shall be for the best interests of those for whom they act. Parents and guardians, with seldom an exception, manifest a desire that their children, and those for whom they act, shall have met out to them the full benefit of our system of education, and not be far behind others in scholarly attainments. And our citizens who have no children in whom to be particularly interested in this respect are rarely found who are

indifferent in regard to the success and prosperity of the schools. Indeed, it may be said that public opinion almost everywhere is not adrift on this subject; nor is it stationary. It is fixed so far as backward influences are concerned, and, if acting, the motto is onward.

From the investigations of your Committee, the following summary relating to the several schools is prepared:—

The summer term of that in District No. 1, was in charge of Miss CLARA S. NIMS; 9 weeks; 38 scholars; average in attendance, 33. All attended to Reading and Spelling, 7 to Penmanship, 21 to Arithmetic, 13 to Geography, 4 to Grammar, 5 to Composition and 1 to Algebra. The difficulties that had attended the government and management of this school in terms preceding were such as to require the best efforts of a superior teacher, to make it successful. Miss Nims proved herself mistress of the situation. The closing examination was open and frank, honestly showing, it is believed, the condition of the school, much to the credit of pupils and teacher.

In the winter, the school was under the direction of the same teacher 11 weeks; 48 pupils; averaging nearly 46. All attended to Reading and Spelling, 24 to Penmanship, 32 to Arithmetic, 16 to Geography, 10 to Grammar, 12 to Composition, 1 to History and 2 to Book-keeping. A better record of attendance in a large school, it is believed, cannot be found; the average to the whole attendance being as 23 to 24. This shows that pupils were interested in their school, and reflects much credit upon parents. The term was a very profitable one, and an honor to scholars, teacher and the district.

During the summer and autumn terms, of seven weeks each, the school in District No. 2 was instructed by Miss MARY E. DAVIS. Number of scholars, 14, the same both terms, with an equal average of 13. All attended to reading and spelling, 6 to Penmanship, 7 to Arithmetic and 3 to Geography. Here is a school-house of much credit to the district. The school mainly composed of small scholars. Its appearance at the times of visitation was such as to render both teacher and pupils deserving much praise.

In No. 4 there was but one term of twelve weeks, mainly in the autumn. This was taught by Miss LUCY A. DOW. Whole number of scholars, 12; with an average of nearly 7. Two of the pupils left town and the same number were transferred to another district, during the term, which accounts for the low average. All attended to Reading and Spelling, 7 to Penmanship and Geography, 8 to Arithmetic, 1 to Grammar and Algebra and 3 to Composition. Miss Dow is one of our best teachers. A good disciplinarian. Her classes, particularly in Reading, if equalled, were no where excelled. The school was highly satisfactory.

The showing of attendance from what was formerly number 4, at the school in Munsonville, is not creditable to this town. There should be more realized from the opportunities opened here for schooling.

In District number 5, in the summer, the school was taught by Miss J. S. KNOWLTON. Seven weeks; number of scholars, 22; average attendance, 16. All attended to Reading, 17 to Spelling and Arithmetic, 8 to Penmanship and 6 to Geography. This teacher is one of large experience, and her school was very orderly, profitable and successful.

In the autumn, another term was taught by Miss ALICE M. CUMMINGS, 6 weeks; 24 pupils; average, 19. All were in Reading and Spelling, 13 in Penmanship, 18 in Arithmetic and six in Geography. In so short a term not much could be accomplished. It was well begun, but ended too soon to show very marked results.

In number 6, the school in the summer was in charge of Miss ANNIE E. PERKINS. Eight weeks; 18 pupils; average, 17. All attended to Reading, 8 to Spelling, 6 to Penmanship and 12 to Geography. The literary qualifications of this teacher well fitted her for a school of a much higher grade. The advantages of this were apparent in readiness and accuracy of her instructions. Order good; the school highly deserving commendation.

The autumnal term was taught by Miss JOSIE E. SCOTT. 11 weeks; 22 scholars; average, 18. All attended to Reading and Spelling, 15 to Penmanship, 14 to Arithmetic, 6 to Geography and 1 to Grammar. Miss Scott is an experienced and well

qualified instructress, and what has been said of the summer term, is equally true of the succeeding one.

The school in District No. 8, in the summer, was taught by Miss LUCY A. DOW; six weeks; number of pupils, 13; average, 12. All were in Reading and Spelling, 9 in Penmanship, 6 in Arithmetic, 4 in Geography and 1 in Grammar. A very short school, but marked in improvement. What has been said of this teacher in No. 3, may be remarked of her here

A term of 9 weeks, in the autumn, was taught by Miss S. L. SNOW; 15 scholars; average, 12. All were in Reading, Spelling and Music, 9 in Penmanship, 7 in Arithmetic, 3 in Geography, 2 in Composition and 1 in Grammar. It is very much to be regretted that this school did not maintain its condition of the three preceding sessions. Parents here contribute very liberally towards its support in addition to the sum assigned from taxation, and manifest much interest pertaining to the prosperity of their school. The teacher excuses the restlessness of the scholars on account of the poor condition of the school-house, which may in no small degree be truthfully said; but from three visitations of this school, and the feeling manifested on the part of parents, it was evident there was more the matter here than what ailed the school-house. The people of this district have had good schools, and mainly through the united efforts of parents and teachers. If the school-house needs repairing, do it; if anything else is requisite, the citizens of this district will be quick to see what is necessary, and, by acting as they will see is best, they will be rewarded in the increased comfort and improvement of their children.

In district No. 9 there was a school in the summer of 8 weeks. This was the only term of the year. Number of pupils, 6; average attendance, 5. All attended to Reading and Spelling, 2 to Penmanship and Geography, 5 to Arithmetic and 1 to Grammar and Physiology. This was taught by Miss ALICE M. CUMMINGS, and when it is considered that this was her first school, her efforts may be regarded as very creditable in results.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, as enumerated by the selectmen in the month of April,

last, in compliance with the requirements of the statutes, was 110—53 male, and 57 female.

The whole number of different scholars attending school not less than two weeks, 147—69 male and 78 females.

The number of visits made to the schools by your Committee the past year is twenty-six.

The number of visits to the schools, as shown by teachers' registers, is 220.

The following is a showing of the amount of school money not used by the several school districts last year, and in the town treasury at the commencement of this; the amount assessed the year now closing, together with the Literary fund for the same time; the sums due, and also the amount in each instance drawn for use.

	Left over.	Assessed 1877.	Literary Fund 1877.	Amount for 1877.	Drawn for use by Com.
District No. 1,	\$23 67	\$101 16	\$7 80	\$132 63	\$130 29
“ “ 2,	7 67	56 45	7 80	71 92	64 12
“ “ 3,	4 43	53 50	7 80	65 73	60 30
“ Nelson,	36 56	21 31		57 87	57 87
“ No. 5,	5 51	93 65	7 80	106 96	101 31
“ “ 6,	7 64	119 12	7 80	134 56	126 70
“ “ 8,	2 27	43 91	7 80	53 98	47 55
“ “ 9,	7 26	17 89	7 80	32 95	25 00
Amounts,	\$95 01	\$506 99	\$54 60	\$656 60	\$613 14

During the year now closing, a much needed change in some of the text-books has been made through town. The Franklin series of Readers have taken the place of the many different kinds that have been in use quite too long for the benefit of the scholars; also, Harpers' Geographies have taken the place of others dating back from five to twenty years. The change has resulted in a uniformity of books very desirable, and effected much towards the almost unexceptionable success of the schools.

The favorable condition of our schools is not and should not be considered as a guaranty for their future prosperity. There are considerations and requisites that must be heeded, and which

will be found essential for continued success and improvement. Partizan strifes, sectarian influences and local animosities have no business in the make up, in providing for and conducting our schools.

Soon the annual meetings are to be held. Select for Prudential Committees men suitable for the place. Any body will not always fill the position. Select such men as are good managers of their own affairs, and generally such as have children themselves in the schools, and certainly such as are interested in the education of the young. A person filling this description, after taking the oath of office that he "will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon" him, in the position named, "according to the best of his abilities, and agreeably to the rules and regulations of the constitution and the laws of the State," will do so if he is a fit subject for trust and management in any position. Again, provide for such repairs of school-houses as will save them from decay and render them at least comfortable for the purpose for which they are to be used.

With this outlook for the coming year, the first subject for consideration is that relating to suitable teachers. Those of experience will generally be found to be best. But we would not always advise the employment of such only. Sometimes first efforts are the most successful, and must be made to supply the demand for instructors. An energetic, active, good, common sensed person, with literary qualifications, such as ought always to be demanded, will seldom fail in school. The dull, stupid and half qualified had better be in some other employment. Another consideration may be referred to in this connection, and that is, to engage only such persons for teachers as possess the requisite legal qualifications. It may be said this is to be determined by the Superintendent. Very true. But when a candidate for a school has been engaged, price agreed upon, time fixed for commencing school and the district notified to that effect, and scholars in readiness for attendance and equipped for that purpose, and word comes that the person expected to teach has been found not qualified, and that commencement must be delayed till some one can be procured that pos-

sesses requisite qualifications, the inconvenience, disappointments and other results are certainly of sufficient moment to be carefully guarded against. Perhaps the person rejected may have a brother, sister or some other relation or friend in the district who will be mortified and chagrined at the failure, and war at heart, if not openly expressed, waged for that term if not for the year. This is no fancy sketch, as such occurrences may and sometimes actually do take place. The cautionary word in this regard should be, "exercise good judgment and discretion in the engagement of teachers."

When the time for the beginning of a school is arriving, have the school-room put in a neat and inviting condition and require it to be kept so during the term.

When teachers are placed in charge of the schools, all reasonable efforts should be made to encourage and sustain them. This may be done in many ways: By counselling and inciting children to have their deportment creditable to themselves and their parents and friends; by encouraging diligence and close application, while in school, to the studies receiving attention, and by requiring them to be constant and punctual in attendance. The loss to our schools from absence, tardiness and dismissals is sometimes very great. Visit your schools, and invite teachers to your homes. Children will usually be interested in those matters and subjects in which their parents heartily engage. Sometimes disaffection is taken in consequence of a particular friend or favorite not being put in charge of a school; and this feeling of resentment may be allowed to incite dislike to a teacher, and even aim at breaking up the school. Motives so base would be discreditable to Hottentots or the inhabitants of the Feejee Islands; and when they incite to action are beneath contempt. Attention to what has been alluded to, with a desire of benefiting the schools, will do much towards making them successful in the future.

CONCLUSION.

While we view with satisfaction the prosperity of our schools the past year, as relates to the improvement of our youth in the various branches of study to which they may have attended, it is well not to be unmindful of the necessity that while intel-

lects are being trained and stored with useful knowledge, morality must not be forgotten. No taint of character should exist on the part of teachers, or vicious act or want of rectitude be otherwise than discouraged and rebuked in scholars. Ignorance, with honesty of purpose, whether viewed as existing within the limits of township, or pertaining to the broad sweep of the land, is far less objectionable than the most enlightened education where baseness, immorality and a want of integrity prevail.

Guard well the common schools. Let the same care pertaining to them be observed as is requisite in the business affairs of life to ensure success. It has been said that "eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty," and it may also be said that the elements for the continuance of our liberties are living in the heads and hearts of the youth of the land. Constant watchfulness, and unremitting and well directed efforts and labors are to bring those elements into activity fitted intellectually and morally to mould the future of our country.

SUMNER KNIGHT, *S. S. Committee.*



